Cathartesaura

Cathartesaura is a genus of rebbachisaurid sauropod dinosaur hailing from the Late Cretaceous strata of the Huincul Formation, at the "La Buitrera" locality, in the Neuquén Basin of Río Negro Province, Argentina.[1] The fossil remains, described by Gallina and Apesteguía in 2005, consist of a partial skeleton including vertebrae and limb bones. These were found at the base of the formation, which spans the Cenomanian and Coniacian epochs, in mudstone and sandstone levels.

Etymology

The generic name is composed of *Cathartes*, the New World vulture genus and *-saura*, feminine declination of the Greek term *sauros*, "lizard". It also implies the juxtaposition of the components of the scientific name of the turkey vulture, *Cathartes aura*, whose Spanish name, "*buitre*", named the locality where the fossil was found due to the abundance of such birds there. The specific epithet honors the Argentinian adhesive company Anaeróbicos for providing field and laboratory support during the extraction and preparation of the fossils.[1]

Description

Cathartesaura is a medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur with a long, lightly built, well-muscled neck albeit with a somewhat limited range of dorso-ventral movement. *C. anaerobica* has distinguishing characteristics in the vertebrae that ally it with Rebbachisauridae, such as the bony laminae association and the pneumatic chambers in the cervical series.
Being found in early Late Cretaceous sediments, along with other rebbachisaurids, the only diplodocoid group of the time, this find helps cement the notion that a subsequent extinction event wiped out these remaining diplodocoid dinosaurs leaving saltasaurine titanosaurs to occupy the vacant ecological niche.[1]

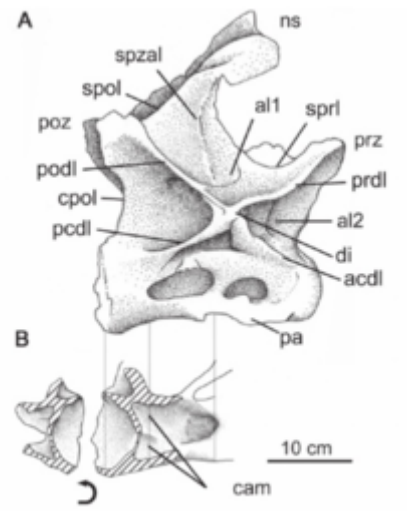
References

Cathartesaura

Temporal range: Cenomanian

~97–93 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN



A posterior cervical vertebra from the holotype of *Cathartesaura*

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Clade:	Saurischia
Suborder:	†Sauropodomorpha
Clade:	†Sauropoda
Family:	†Rebbachisauridae
Genus:	†*Cathartesaura* Gallina & Apesteguía 2005
Species:	†***C. anaerobica***

Binomial name

†***Cathartesaura anaerobica***
Gallina & Apesteguía 2005

1. Gallina, Pablo A.; Apesteguía, Sebastián (2005). "Cathartesaura anaerobica gen. et sp. nov.,a new rebbachisaurid (Dinosauria, Sauropoda) from the Huincul Formation (Upper Cretaceous), Rio Negro, Argentina" (http://revista.macn.gob.ar/ojs/index.php/RevMus/article/view/332/316). *Revista del Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales*. Nueva Series. **7** (2): 153–166. doi:10.22179/REVMACN.7.332 (https://doi.org/10.22179%2FREVMACN.7.332).

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